

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 6

June 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Acts 2

"My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great." — John Wesley

We live in a time where the world is searching, some know (or think they know) what they are looking for while many others will admit they do not. Even those who find themselves in that right way with Christ Jesus can still forget, lose sight, lose contact, feel complacent, or feel they can go at it on their own, without flipping on the switch (receiving and living God's gift).

We can even be so arrogant that when we actually only know a little, we think we know a lot until we try to walk across a darkened room and stub our toe into a piece of furniture or find a Lego that did not get picked up; when all we had to do is turn on a switch to light the way to help us and others. The power is not from us, but it is a resource shared with us whether an overhead light, a lamp, a flashlight, lighting a candle or using a cell phone.

When we can humbly receive and graciously use what God has granted us, we have such an opportunity to grow in our faith and be able to see and experience how God is making a way for remarkable things (Acts 2:41- 3,000 came to Christ). And, as we do so, God's power lives through us so to do great things, supernatural things for His Church and Creation, and in turn it renews the spiritual fire and excitement to make a difference in the struggling world we live in for others for Christ's sake. (Acts 2:7-11,47, speaking different languages and people growing in Christ daily being saved).

In June new things begin, many celebrations/days of recognition take place, but as the Lord's people let us reach for the God given switch; as we celebrate the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit and the power, grace, and agape, as God wants to do great things. Find the switch, refamiliarize yourself with the switch, flip the switch and let's reactivate our faith and let go of the things that hinder us or interfere with our receiving and accepting and living with God's Holy Spirit; and so not to quench the Holy Spirit by our selfish or complacent or ignorant ways; but renewing ourselves in faith of who God is and what God is ready and wanting to do for His Church, His people, His Creation, His Kingdom. "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." -Matthew 5:15.

Grace and Peace to each and all as the days share a little more day light, as summer awakes from its winter nap, and as we celebrate God's call and gift of the Holy Spirit for His people to do wonderful things for His Glory.

Pastor Joseph, III



Bethlehem Methodist Church

Our Mission at Bethlehem Church is to share the love and spirit of Christ, be a welcoming fellowship for all, nurture followers of Jesus and send them, as servants, into the world in need of God's grace.

Pastor

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Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Childcare Director

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Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-April 2025

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$604,431.64 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of April 1, 2025

+ 38,042.09 Money Received in April

- 23,786.47 Money Spent in April

\$618,687.26 Budget's Fund Balance as of April 30, 2025

For the month of April, 2025, the Church Budget received \$14,255.62 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$31,580.51 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

Major Maintenance & Repair Fund – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times. This fund was created by a vote of the church council on April 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$153,293.62 MM&RF Money Available April 30, 2025

Other Designated Gifts – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88	Arbor Fund	\$ 1,163.43
Food Pantry	\$ 1,279.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,028.62	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 19,330.74
Alpha & Omega Youth	\$24,832.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 36,826.81
Children & Family Ministries	\$ 4,049.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Flowers	\$ 198.00
198.00198(\$800 History)		Heifer International	\$ 2,758.41

Total Other Designated Gifts \$98,061.42

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of April 30, 2025 **\$251,355.04**

Trust Funds

\$101,800.00 Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund

In order to plan and provide the necessary funds for the care and upkeep of our cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was created. This fund was a non-expendable trust fund in which the principle (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principle can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of April 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$60,497.56 Helen Grady Endowment Fund

The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

June Wordsearch

I	C	G	E	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N
W	B	G	F	I	R	E	F	L	I	E	S	N	T
P	F	I	B	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	I	R
E	I	F	B	S	B	R	E	M	M	U	S	C	I
N	C	A	C	L	A	S	C	E	N	S	I	O	N
T	V	T	L	A	E	L	Y	M	P	E	O	E	I
E	H	H	I	I	M	S	O	L	L	S	U	H	T
C	C	E	N	S	A	P	C	V	I	N	L	A	Y
O	C	R	R	H	H	N	I	H	E	M	T	T	S
S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	O	G	A	T	O
T	P	C	A	E	A	O	V	C	G	O	M	F	B
S	S	E	C	R	E	T	P	A	L	S	L	E	E
S	B	G	A	L	F	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G
I	I	G	U	Y	M	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N

BIBLE SCHOOL
PENTECOST
ASCENSION
TRINITY
BEACH
WATERMELON
SUNSCREEN
FIREFLIES
VACATION
FATHER
CAMPING
SECRET PALS
SWIMMING
SUNSHINE
SUMMER
FAMILY
FLAG
LOVE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8374080/>



It's Here!

The Secret Pal reveal is scheduled for Sunday, June 8th during service and there will be a reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

Childcare Spotlight

Summer Camp for the school age children in childcare is right around the corner. We go on field trips every Tuesday. If you'd be interested in donating to help offset the cost of some of the field trips, please let Erica know!



If you're interested in reading to our preschool children, please come to read, sing and enjoy books with them here at Bethlehem. Pick out a book or two and sign up to come on Tuesdays at 10:30AM to the church library. Themes for June include camping, fishing, and Jesus calms the storm. The sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex.

Lauren Haywood's Exercise Classes

DANCE, SCULPT, & STRETCH

What to expect - 30 minutes of our original low impact / high intensity cardio "DANCE SCULPT" followed by 15 minutes of targeted SCULPTING, and 15 minutes of STRETCHING. With this combo we will be able to torch fat, tone muscles, and release tension ALL in one hour together!

Mondays - 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Tabernacle (Sculpt-Core focus)

Wednesdays - 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem (Sculpt-Glute focus)

All classes \$5 or \$20/5 classes punch cards available at Bethlehem [only]. Please bring your own mat, bottled water, 1-5 lb. weights (optional), & sweat towel. Open to ALL fitness levels! Zero experience needed. New members WELCOME!

Questions - contact Lauren 336-686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com

Friendly Club

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, June 10th at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall. Ann Everette returns to be our speaker on sewing/quilting projects. She will be bringing her beautiful quilts to be displayed. For those who may not know, Ann is Michelle Hinshaw's cousin and is delightful! Fran Getner has also promised to bring some of her beautiful quilts! Please bring a covered dish to share and join us for a good time. ALL are invited!

Bethlehem History

The month of June has held some special events for Bethlehem.

The first deed to Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church bears the date of June 2nd, 1825. Sometime near the date of that first deed, a log meeting house was erected on the acre of land purchased. For a little more than 40 years the original church stood and served its day and generation.

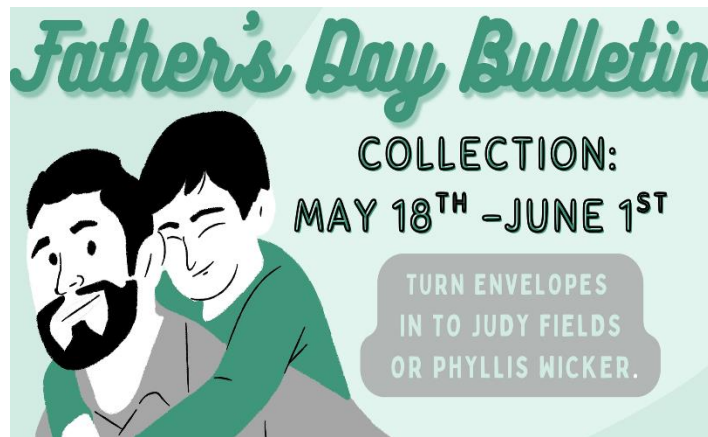
A second church was built after the Civil War, probably in 1868. It was a frame building, covered with planks on the side walls and shingles on the roof.

A third church was built during 1896. It was 32 X 50 feet in size, had logs for the side walls and clapboards for the roof. Bethlehem had a way of getting things done, so the church was dedicated on June 27th, 1897.

The congregation grew and in 1918 substantial additions were made to the building. Electric lights came, a hot air furnace was added, and carpet to cover the floor was used.

The church building, which had been the scene of many happy gatherings, caught fire during a thunder cloud, Sunday afternoon, June 22nd, 1952 and burned to the ground. The pews and the piano in the sanctuary, and the chairs in the Sunday School rooms were all that was saved.

As in the past, the church quickly came together and started on a new building. On April 5th, 1953, Easter Sunday, the Sunday school rooms were used for service. By September 19th, 1954 they were in the church, and their loan was canceled. Many changes have followed through the years!



Camp Meeting

June 19th Committee & Volunteer Meeting in the Parlor (7PM)

July 17th Arbor Clean Up (6PM)

July 27th First Day of Camp Meeting & Homecoming

August 2nd Ice Cream Social

August 3rd Last Day of Camp Meeting

August 7th Arbor Clean Out

Magnified

VBS is coming soon! It will be from Monday, June 23rd to Wednesday, June 25th. There will be a meal directly before every night from 5:30PM to 6:15PM. Registration opens May 26th; please sign up online or contact Layne Downing if you wish to participate. It's open for everyone from preschool to adults!



Memorials & Honorariums

Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in memory/honor as listed. Bethlehem Church gratefully acknowledges each gift received.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Angela Berke**
By Gale Berke

In Memory of **Doug Downing**
By Susan Davis
By Phyllis & Byron Dahl

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**
By Bob Weatherly (x4)

In Memory of **Leo Kirkman**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Doris Kirkman**
By Kim & Kevin Gunter

In Memory of **Joyce King**
By Margaret Royal
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**
By Helen Waugh

In Memory of **Chuck Rowland's 96th Birthday**
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Mildred Moser's 100th Birthday**
By Becky & Dale Windsor

In Memory of **Wayne Kirkman**
By Russell & Sharon Hill

In Memory of **Earl Fields, Everette Smith, Addie Fields, Fronie Fields, & Opal Smith**
By Faye Fields

In Memory of **Earl Fields & Ernest Spencer**
By Denny Spencer

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Carlton Johnson**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Ruby Kirkman's Birthday**
By Lois Snow

In Honor of **Madigan Downing**
By Anna-Grace Fulk

In Honor of **Helen Waugh**
By Carol Fields
By Denny & Julie Spencer
By Faye Fields
By Linda, Kim, & Cindy Duncan
By Jane Chamelin
By Susan Davis

In Honor of **My Family**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Lucille McClintock**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Denny Spencer**
By Layne, Kylie, Maysa & Madigan

Prayer LIST

Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Our Church

LeeAnne Curtis

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Donald Rose McGhee

Carlie H.

Clyde Land

Jerri Ramsey

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

Our printed prayer list includes church members and close family and friends of church members.





June

6/1 Judy Fields
David Peele
6/2 Asher Garrett
6/4 Betty Fields
Jenahlee Young
6/5 Elaine Bowman
6/6 Ashton Allen
Bradon Allen
Sid Fields
Marguerite Fields
Amanda Fields
6/9 Chad Garrett
6/10 Sherri Bowman
6/12 Margaret Royal
6/13 Doug Nance
6/14 Phillip Jones
Deena King
Dale Austin
6/17 Glenn Getner
6/20 Michelle Hinshaw
Reagan Owens
6/21 Carol Fields
Cindy Fields
Jennifer Young
6/22 Brenda Fields
6/23 Fran Getner
Craig McClintock
6/26 Jonah Owens
6/28 Kennedy Waugh Pavatt






July

7/1 Zoe Palmer
7/2 John Steve Fields
7/3 Ashley McClintock
7/4 Michael Brady
Ronda Robb
7/5 David Robb
7/6 Evonne Parks
7/7 Melvin Hinshaw
7/10 Becky Windsor
Lauren Cordial
7/11 Quart Fulk
Ritchie Robb
7/12 Rachel Wilkinson
7/13 Jason Fields
7/18 Riley Christie
7/19 Ally Fields Shuford
7/21 Doris Reynolds
7/23 Benjamin Windsor
7/25 Tina Hinshaw
7/29 Merinda Wilkinson
7/30 Debbie Brady
Sandie Harris
Taylor Wray
7/31 Abigail Coble
Maysa Downing
Emily Robb



June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Ascension Sunday <i>Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday</i> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- FATHER'S DAY BULLETIN ENDS 11AM FH Reserved 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	2	3 10:30AM StoryTime 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor)	4 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	5 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	6	7 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
8 Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 11AM Secret Pals Reveal 3PM FH Reserved 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	9 Walking Group (Time Varies)	10 10:30AM StoryTime 11AM Friendly Club SCHOOL'S OUT! (Randolph)	11 9:30AM Bookmobile Walking Group (Time Varies) SCHOOL'S OUT! (Guilford) 6:30PM Childcare Meeting (Sunshine Classroom) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	12	13	14
15 Trinity Sunday <i>Father's Day</i> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Noisy Offering-	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	17 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved 	18 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	19 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Camp Meeting Committee (Parlor)	20 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	21
22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	23 Walking Group (Time Varies) 5PM Arlene Stokes Cook Out (Dahl's House)	24 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved 	25  Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	26	27	28
5:30PM - Vacation Bible School- Vacation Bible School- Vacation Bible School						
29 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	30 Walking Group (Time Varies)	JULY				

GREETERS:

6/1 Byron & Phyllis Dahl
 6/8 OPEN
 6/15 Debbie Waugh
 6/22 OPEN
 6/29 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

6/1 OPEN
 6/8 OPEN
 6/15 Young-at-Heart Class
 6/22 Byron & Phyllis Dahl
 6/29 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

6/1 Maysa Downing
 6/8 Braxton Wall
 6/15 Quart Fulk
 6/22 Bradon Allen
 6/29 Ashton Allen

USHERS:

David Allen
 Byron Dahl
 Doug Garrett
 Terry Franklin

JUNE OPENER:

Jerry Monnett

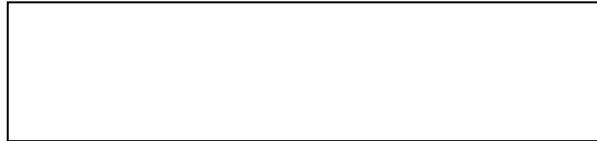
JUNE CLOSER:

Greg Wicker

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I CAN DO
ALL THIS
THROUGH
HIM WHO
GIVES ME
STRENGTH.
PHILIPPIANS
4 : 13 NIV